



Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 17-287, Bridging the Digital Divide for Low-Income Consumers

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Enclosed please find the comments and petition signatures of an additional 130 Free Press members telling the Federal Communications Commission to leave the Lifeline program alone.

The petition reads:

To the Federal Communications Commission:

By rolling back the Lifeline program, you will be eliminating affordable phone and internet-access options for millions of poor people. Low-income families, the elderly, people with disabilities, people living on tribal lands, veterans, people of color and unhoused people all need Lifeline. **There's no reason to move forward with such a cruel and heartless plan. Please leave the FCC's Lifeline program alone.**

We urge the FCC to listen to communities and abandon it's plan to rollback Lifeline.

Best,

Candace Clement  
Campaign Director  
Free Press



Lifeline is currently my only way to contact anyone. Now in this day and age when finding a payphone is nearly impossible, the cost of mobile devices are increasingly overpriced. There isn't a way for someone like myself that has no home struggling to find work to make a simple phone call. Now there are other options but just Invision this, when a homeless man walks up asks you excuse me may I borrow your phone I need to make a call. The first thought to some would be sure I don't mind but that almost never happens. Normally when I am in a situation similar to the aforementioned scenario, the replies I usually received are, get a job , no fucj off, or (and this is one of the interesting repliesthus far) why? So u can take off running then sell it for drug money?, etc people don't like to give there 1000\$ phone to a random stranger that could be armed or psychotic so they simply say no and walk away it is much simpler and less risky please for the sake of those who actually require the assistance do not pass this

—Manuel Alexander, Santa Maria, CA

Lifeline service is an absolute most for my living situation and being able to be reach me in important times of need. Please keep lifeline strong.

—Justin Scott Stoll, North Las Vegas, NV

It means we will take many citizens back to the 20th century with left behind in the digital economy. Our nation will have millions of people who are digitally divided.

—Bernard Smith, Baltimore, MD

My family lives in multiple countries, so does my father. We text and call multiple time a week. To think that staying connected with loved ones will be expensive and that others might not be able to afford such things is extremely disheartening. Also the fact that now ALOT of things basically work on the net shoves a huge majority of people out with this action. Jobs and livelihoods will suffer massively, opportunities for research, study, and freelancing will be choked, and entertainment, communication and teamwork will go down. More people will be stressing needlessly. Emotional and mental health is just as important as physical and this action could really crush people.

—Mina Al-Meznawi, ,

A LIFE SAVER

—Lawrence Smith, Cleveland, OH

I volunteer with many low income people who are disabled and live on less than \$750 a month. Most live alone and have a lot of serious health issues. I don't know what they would do without Lifeline.

—Andrea Baldwin Porter, Bowling Green, KY

World Wide Internet should be available to all around the world, regardless of financial stature. Please do not take this privilege away

—Nancy Deptula, Shelton, CT

Nothing, but I know it means a lot to many. Everyone, however, pays too much for communications compared to other countries. U.S. is in top ten most costly.

—William N Davis II, Dayton, OH

it means enabling those who'd otherwise suffer without, to have access to modern communication. we should be increasing, not decreasing funding to this program

—Dave Hey, Brownsville, MN

YES

—Subeiri, ,

Great program..if the the FCC can follow through and bridge the digital divide without gutting the "life" out of Lifeline.

—Susan Cantillon-Cuda, Saratoga Springs, NY

If you have a child you know that schools require students to use the internet at home as they progress in grades. This prepares them to be ready for the workforce and ready for college. By removing this you're putting America further behind other countries. Removing this service would be terrible.

—Laura J. Brengel, Clifton Park, NY

I was on lifeline for about 2 years when my home foreclosed in the market crash. I needed the internet and cellphone to find housing and employment. Protect Lifeline Program funding please!

—Rafee Jajou, La Mesa, CA

Needed Access to services/care by those who have limited resources

—Richard Headley, Pittsburgh, PA

Lifeline means security in many ways for the poor....health, shelter, food.

—Elizabeth G Flynn, Beacon, NY

I'm a semi-retired senior citizen, and it is very important to me that I can continue to have access to the Internet. And there are so many people poorer than I am that really depend on Lifeline and related programs. This country is supposed to be responsible for ALL its citizens, not just the wealthy elite (like Mr. Pai). It's time to DO THE RIGHT THING!

—David Hempel, Iowa City, IA

I work in my parish to give financial assistance to the needy. Frequently their access to programs & services depend on their memberships in the Lifeline program. It really does make a difference. Please DO NOT roll back the Lifeline program.

—Ms. Kelly Epstein, Spring, TX

It is vital to keep communication open to low income people. It is a small budget in return for improving lives having a more productive healthy society. It is morally imperative to keep these programs.

—Miguela Fry, Madison, WI

Lifeline means a source of daily access to our daughter with special needs. Cutting this program will incur an expense she cannot afford, and going without will certainly trigger severe mental health issues. Keep this greatly needed program!

—Ruth J. Palmer, Decorah, IA

It means help for the least and lost among us.

—Glenna Geiger, Paoli, PA

Lifeline is a form of social justice that helps those most in need.

—Rev. Linda M. Bergeon, Medford, OR

It is unfair to target the poor in order to balance the federal budget. Lifeline is a must for the less fortunate in life. Where is the heart of this nation that we would rob those who most need the ability to communicate in our society. Lifeline is necessary. Find the money for tax cuts to the rich somewhere else!

—Virginia Williams, Norfolk, VA

My Christian advocacy for those who need help

—Patricia L. Gaumer, Davis, CA

This program is essential in helping maintain access to communication and information services to vulnerable people. Do not jepordize this impitant and effective program

—, Decorah, IA

I could see myself using Lifeline in the future if my income in retirement drops significantly.

—Mitchell Patton, Madison, WI

I work with vulnerable populations who need assistance to maintain dependable communication with doctors and social workers.

—Brenda Lisenby, Minneapolis, MN

Access to information is vital for connection to people and services.

—Dr. Karen Stephenson, Corvallis, OR

Good day. We are refugees in USA and officially declaring that Government program like LifeLine in California should be alive because our slavic community doesnt have enough resources to have payable cellphones. But we are very happy to have such opportunity to have communication service with our relatives who still stay abroad. Thats only one option for us to have connection with our love ones abroad. Thank you LIFELINE so much. Please extend your programm..

—Viacheslav Paramonov, Sacramento, CA

Access to the Internet for those of limited means.

—Erica Kane, Chevy Chase, MD

It is essential for those with no, or very limited means.

—Edward Williamson, Houston, MO

A necessary part of providing safety in marginalized areas.

—Murray F. Hudson, Dyersburg, TN

Lifeline can mean that the sick can be reached by their doctors, a low-income person can be reached by his employer to take that extra shift at work--- so many things that most of us take for granted. Leave the FCC's Lifeline program in place

—Denise Koetas-Dale, Chesterfield, NJ

It means our medical providers can reach extremely vulnerable patients who cannot afford a phone otherwise.

—Dan Norris, Philadelphia, PA

It's internet for my family to do homework and research!

—Shannon Irene Downs, Cleveland, OH

Leave lifeline alone!

—Savannah, Port Isabel, TX

Keep it alive forever do not disconnect everyone in the USA

—James Birmingham, ,

Exactly what it says it is a lifeline It helps me have a phone and internet and helps so many others have it also Without it I and many others would not have access to everything tha ta phone and internet provides.

—Rhonda Weaver, San Dimas, CA

I know people who rely on this. this is such a small cost and should be kept for people who need it.

—Judy Horner, Libby, MT

Affordable internet

—Ciji Lewis, Cleveland, OH

I feel secure knowing that my mother has internet access. She is frail, lives alone, and has a disability.

—Deborah Fronko, San Diego, CA

It means me we all have rights to talk to who we want to against the rules

—Margie gregg, Gordo, AL

it means the world to me. If it were not for lifeline I would struggle even more to pay my bills and keep a phone on.

—Patricia L Daniel, Bakersfield, CA

Providing critical access to the internet to the poor and elderly!

—Elliot Glist, Falmouth, MA

All of my former elementary students in Brooklyn depended on Lifeline to provide affordable phone and internet access. Now they may be left without any communication services, if Lifeline is dismantled

—Loren Weybright, Brooklyn, NY

Lifeline is an important program that enables people to participate in society in a way that is necessary for a healthy economy.

—Peter, Santa Rosa, CA

So here is my list of The ten Finest Influence Wrenches.

—Sofiagooch, ,

A: In the realm of the Effect wrench, Torque is king.

—Kiraburdette, ,

I'm a teacher and some of my students would lose access at home. It essential for learning. Much of learning today requires students access tools such as google classroom at home.

—Diane G, Farmingdale, NJ

And we provide a large selection of influence wrenches.

—Maxwellfender, Athens, GA

It means having a home phone. Without Lifeline, I couldn't afford it – and it comes in handy, often.

—Kimi Wei, Fair Lawn, NJ

Ability to purchase groceries, prescriptions, telephone doctor visits, and contact with loved ones

—Andie, Palmdale, CA

leave Lifeline alone if you guys want to improve it great but other wise leave it alone heres a tip think about others before yourself

—B, Owensboro, KY

I HAVE A YOUNG FRIEND WHO DEPENDS ON IT TO HAVE COMMUNICATION. (DISABLED AND A MINOR)

—Brian Inzer, Owens Cross Roads, AL

Opportunities for the protection, support, development and advancement of those underserved and unconnected in American communities.

—Earl Williams Jr, Shaker Heights, OH

It saves me a lot of money for a valuable and needed phone service.

—Alice Mccoy, Cleveland, OH

It means safety for my newborn. It means the world to me as such. I cannot afford a phone and life line is MY LIFE LINE. it's my way to get a job, it's my way to stay in contact with my older children, it's my way to call the doctors, it's my way to research. Everything, it's everything!  
—Sara Warren, Fremont, OH

access to confirm appointments and supports  
—sandra Hill, Cleveland, OH

Means I can keep in contact with my sick and ailing mother who is 80 yo. It is a way to keep in touch in case of emergency.  
—Ronald, Vista, CA

I am disabled. Lifeline means I can connect with the outside world.  
—Donna-Lee Phillips, Eureka, CA

This affordable means a lot to me and has help me with great service .my kids use to do assignments at home and search the internet. This has help me to communicate with friends and do college assignments.  
—Ramon Reynoso, Cleveland, OH

By rolling back the Lifeline program, you will be eliminating affordable phone and internet-access options for millions of poor people. Low-income families, the elderly, people with disabilities, people living on tribal lands, veterans, people of color and unhoused people all need Lifeline.  
—ATherese Garland, Brecksville, OH

My support and help in ways that I can't do by myself  
—Kimyatta Cephus, Eastlake, OH

A gateway to independence and progress  
—Shawn Wise, Cleveland, OH

Democracy  
—Ann Greenfield, Brattleboro, VT

By having affordable telephone and internet services, this allows my family to thrive in other ways. Such as being able to pay for my 16yr old grandsons school tuition and his sister's summer camp programs . Having discount services allow me to pay my utility bills on time and contribute to paying for my youngest son's medicine because he currently does not have prescription coverage. Thank you. Stacey Mcclinton.  
—Stacey Mcclinton, Cleveland, OH

I was poor once and without these programs I would not have the access to education and opportunities to raise up and become a highly productive member of society. History nor God will remember you well for your actions if you continue to act against the people and for yourself interest and that of the ruling wealth.  
—James Mitchell, Topsfield, MA

I have elderly relatives and friends whom rely on lifeline. Since they cannot afford phone or internet services, their whole way of life is dependent the availability of the current lifeline system.  
—Cody Moy, Chicago, IL

When I was unable to find work it truly saved my life. And volunteering with poverty programs and the homeless, I know so many low-income people whose survival is tied to lifeline. Please preserve this vital safety-net for countless Americans.  
—Kyle T Lucas, Olympia, WA

Because I care about the ability of homeless women and men to be able to negotiate life on the streets , I believe Lifeline is crucial to their everyday lives.

—Naomi Dagen Bloom, Portland, OR

life

—Joseph Pitt, Newport, VA

Everything and everyone as one being!

—J'Ulene LaQue, Minneapolis, MN

retired, disabled, limited income ( SSA ca.8K/yr ),

—Thomas Lux, San Leandro, CA

help for others

—R Pena, West Covina, CA

important care of the poor

—Ms. Monica Stuhldreier, Monroe, MI

As a computer science professional, I see the many good things -- including prosperity for our nation, profits for business, and high-quality jobs -- that come with a connected society. Cutting back on access, and widening our nation's digital divide is penny wise, and pound foolish. I urge you not to impose a budget cap on Lifeline.

—Robert Goldman, Minneapolis, MN

Lifeline is a program I relied on for years in order to afford telephone service in my area. Without it, I would not have been able to afford my services.

—Fabian Gauthier, Santa Cruz, CA

It's a lifeline-- connects you to family, friends and information! Hard to imagine modern day life without this.

—Roxanne Gihl, Bremerton, WA



Eileen Mack, Weehawken, NJ  
Cynthia Webb, Okemos, MI  
Edith Jacobsen, Decorah, IA  
Alice V Allison, Pasco, WA  
Cristina Alicea, Hobart, IN  
Xuan Vu, Portland, OR  
Travis Duffy, Carson City, MI  
Paul Williams, Toms River, NJ  
Ms. Whitney Creamer, Summitville, IN  
Jason Burris, Klamath Falls, OR  
Juliutterutpo, ,  
Rebecca Lopez, Traverse City, MI  
Peter Mancini, CLEMENTON, NJ  
Michael Powell, Mequon, WI  
, New York, NY  
Georgeanne Matranga, Port Jefferson Station,  
NY  
Ralph Corbo, East Wallingford, VT  
Fr Toni Begonja, Tampa, FL

Don Marsh, Broomfield, CO  
Thomas Aitken, Tampa, FL  
Andrea Kuenning, Minneapolis, MN  
Rori Stevens, Morton, IL  
Sheets J Aida, St. Petersburg, FL  
Brenda Horth, Cleveland, OH  
Diego Teran, Santa Ana, CA  
Lauren Stone, Bakersfield, CA  
Wendy Green, Toledo, OR  
Ginger Gordy, coconut creek, FL  
Leora, New York, NY  
Holly Hughes, Pittston, PA  
Daniel Belachew, Cambridge, MA  
Elan Carlson, West Jordan, UT  
Jeff Hopkins, Lindenhurst, IL  
Don Doolittle, Pontiac, MI  
Clara Raubertas, Chicago, IL  
Paul Adams, Wayland, MA

Dana Lund Rice, Madison, WI  
Julie Miles, Phoenix, AZ  
Alicia Locher, Chicago, IL  
Marissa Cotter, Candia NH, NH  
Duane A. Otremba, Saint Cloud, MN  
Jaymie L Cashdollar, Lancaster, PA  
Samantha Yaroeh, Madison, SD  
Jacob A Bernstein, Brighton, MA  
Jackie S Ramirez, Jackson, NJ  
Jonathan Jean-Jacques, Hollywood, FL  
Gina Taylor, Tulsa, OK  
Melody Miller, Pittsburgh, PA  
John M Monchak, Montclair, NJ  
Daryl W. De Boer, Toms River, NJ  
Selina Pierce, Willits, CA  
Harry Blumenthal, Eureka, CA  
Barbara Reynolds, APPLE RIVER, IL

